

The Forester's Job

Forestry experts, called foresters, manage the forests for many uses. A forest is a complex natural community that supports many types of plant and animal life. Foresters balance the management of the forest to produce products that people use with the need to conserve forest areas for wildlife and recreational use.

Foresters are problem-solvers. Their job responsibilities include promoting the health and well-being of the forest by helping protect it from the harmful effects of fire, disease and insects. Foresters also decide when to harvest trees, when to plant new trees and how to help the forest grow better.

To be a forester, it's important to enjoy working outdoors. But the forester must also study a lot of different subjects in college. They need to understand sciences like botany, zoology and chemistry. They also need to be good in math and know how to use computers. Of course, writing and communications skills are very important, too.

Foresters wear a cruising vest when working in the woods. It has many pockets to hold the forester's tools and is bright orange so that the forester can be easily seen by others, especially hunters, who may be in the forest.



Sizing Up Th

How do foresters even start to understand the forest? It's so big and has so many trees. Foresters must know about the trees before they can decide how best to manage them.

To begin, foresters use maps and photos (taken from an airplane) to get an overview of the forest. They can use maps and photos to locate creeks, property boundaries and stand ages. After studying maps and photos, a forester takes a closer look from the ground at the forest. They do a timber inventory, just like a storekeeper checks their shop. This is called a timber cruise.

A YOUNG STAND A forester will count the number of trees to 1,000 trees per acre depending on the tree species. Based on experience, the forester will be a certain number of trees that will not survive of 10 trees survive during the first five years after planting. Foresters use research and historical information to estimate how many trees will grow per acre in a forest that grows back.



IT'S TOO CROWDED A young stand of trees can get crowded. It can happen even with the best care. It can happen when the trees use up the nutrients from the soil. A farmer does for crops. They also may die. You often get more space when you remove the crowded trees.

the healthiest looking plants. The same is true of trees. They grow with each other. Foresters remove a portion of the trees. The trees that are removed are not wasted, but are used to make paper.

AN OLDER STAND For an older stand of trees, the forester checks the trees are growing and how healthy they are. They count the number of trees and check the age of the trees. They check if the tops are growing together.

The forester then may decide which trees to harvest to make paper and other products.

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ometimes the forest gets too crowded and the trees do not grow
n the trees are first planted, and grass and weeds crowd the new
n the trees get larger and compete with each other for water and
foresters may decide to plow the ground before planting just as a
help **the trees grow better.**

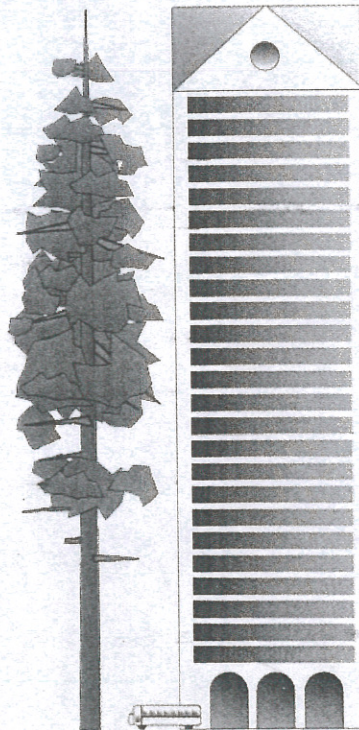
e to thin the trees. When you plant flower or vegetable seeds,
its than will be able to survive, so you weed them out and keep
es, but it usually takes **several years** for them to **start** competing
es so the **remaining** trees will grow faster. Usually the trees that
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Notable Trees



THE OLDEST TREE

The oldest recorded living tree is a bristlecone pine on Wheeler Peak in eastern Nevada. It is 4,900 years old!

THE TALLEST TREE

The tallest tree is named "National Geographic Tree" in Redwood National Park, California. It is 364.3 feet tall, or as tall as a 30-story building!